



Facilitating climate justice through community-based adaptation in the health sector

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Abstract:

Climate change presents real risks to human health, with the impacts unevenly distributed because of biogeophysical factors and population vulnerabilities. Although everyone is at some level susceptible to the health consequences of changing weather patterns and alterations in the geographic distribution and incidence of climate-sensitive health outcomes, there are populations and geographic regions that have enhanced vulnerability. Low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately represented in vulnerable groups, which include the elderly, pregnant women and children, those with chronic medical conditions, people with mobility and cognitive constraints, and the urban and rural poor. Public health interventions designed and deployed in conjunction with these groups and other relevant stakeholders increases individual and community acceptance of, and the success of, the intervention, along with reducing constraints to implementation. Community-based adaptations that address the societal, cultural, environmental, political, and economic contexts that increase vulnerability enhance community resilience to climate change as well as other stressors, providing multiple benefits. Instead of creating new mechanisms for implementing community-based adaptation, there are multiple opportunities for augmenting current programs to address the health risks of climate change. One possibility is to build on Healthy Cities or Health in Cities programs. © 2009, Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.

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Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Unspecified Exposure

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Rural, Urban

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Global or Unspecified

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Health Outcome Unspecified

Intervention:

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern:

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Pregnant Women, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: minority groups

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Resilience:

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

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Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content